

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12555 101305Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12555

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ETEL, GW
SUBJECT: LONG WAVE FREQUENCY 209 KHZ

REF: A. BONN 10663 (EXDIS) B. USICA 13113
C. BONN 6248

SUMMARY: OFFICIAL OF POSTAL MINISTRY (BUNDESPOST-MINISTERIUM - BPM) AGREES THAT SEVERAL NON-POLITICAL ISSUES NEED RESOLUTION BEFORE FRG CAN ASSUME CONTROL OF FREQUENCY 1209. GERMANS WILL MOST LIKELY NOT HAVE THEIR PROPOSALS PREPARED UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET WITH BPM DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY VENHAUS ON JULY 7 TO DISCUSS 209. EMBOFF NOTED THAT DURING JUNE 9 MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, VAN WELL PROVIDED FRG PERMISSION FOR HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION AND IMPLIED THAT, AS A QUID PRO QUO, FRG NOW HAD FULL CONTROL OF 209. EMBOFF TOLD VENHAUS THAT THE US HOPED VAN WELL'S FORMULATION RESULTED FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING. THE RECORDS OF THE US-FRG MEETINGS IN OCTOBER, 1977 AND MARCH, 1978 CLEARLY
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SHOW THAT SEVERAL ISSUES, NOT ONLY HOLZKIRCHEN, NEED RESOLVING BEFORE 209 CAN BE TURNED OVER TO THE FRG.

2. VENHAUS AGREED COMPLETELY. HE SAID BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THAT SEVERAL NON-POLITICAL, BUT IMPORTANT AND EXPENSIVE ISSUES MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE FINAL DISPOSITION OF 209 AND THE MUNICH-ERCHING TRANSMITTER

CAN BE COMPLETED. VENHAUS GAVE AS EXAMPLES: WOULD THE FRG RENT, LEASE OR BUY THE TRANSMITTER AND AT WHAT COST; WHO WOULD PAY FOR CHANGING THE ANTENNA; IF THE FRG DID NOT USE THE MUNICH/ERCHING TRANSMITTER, WHO WOULD PAY FOR MOTHBALLING IT AND AT WHAT PRICE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT VOA EMERGENCY ACCESS HAD TO BE CLEARLY DEFINED. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN GONE FOR THE PAST SEVEN WEEKS SO DID NOT KNOW HOW FAR THE BPM PROPOSALS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED.

3. VENHAUS EXPLAINED THAT VOA'S REQUEST TO USE DEUTSCHE WELLE'S FREQUENCY FROM KIGALI WAS NOT A BPM MATTER. HE SAID THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY HANDLED DW ISSUES AND PROVIDED TWO NAMES TO WHOM THE EMBASSY COULD ADDRESS THE REQUEST. EMBOFF WILL FOLLOW-UP ASAP.

4. VENHAUS SAID THAT BECAUSE OF LEAVES AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, KRATH AND THE OTHER BPM OFFICIALS HANDLING 209 WOULD NOT RETURN UNTIL MID-AUGUST. AT THAT TIME, HE WILL HAVE THEM PREPARE SPECIFIC BPM PROPOSALS ON THE OUTSTANDING 209 ISSUES. HE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THESE PROPOSALS TO US BY EARLY SEPTEMBER AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AT THE NON-POLITICAL LEVEL.

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